

SCOPE

October 09



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Minister's Letter

Hello to you all,
Just so you've got the timing of this letter correct: I'm writing this at the beginning of September – before I go off to Rwanda. When you read it I will be back from Rwanda (God willing, on the 28th of September) but the Kirk Session weekend away will be on the first weekend in October (see more of that below). So the next service when I'll see you all again will be Harvest Sunday (11th October). So you'll understand, I can't really write about the Rwandan trip since I've not been yet – even though as you read this I'm now back! I do hope this is all perfectly clear!

I should start with an admission. I don't really like the radio programme to which I will be referring. But the point is I often find it difficult to get to sleep on a Sunday night – a busy day certainly but usually my head is still buzzing. I can often find myself in bed listening to radio 4.

'Something Understood', with Mark Tully, is the sort of programme that would be ripe for ripping off by 'Dead Ringers' or the like. It would be but so few people listen to it all the references would be lost on people. In truth, it can be very pompous and extremely middle class. Worst of all, it is usually so fantastically vague in its spirituality that I often find listening to it actually immensely frustrating. Ironic, given that I'm quite sure instilling a sense of peace is one of the programmes main objectives. The fact



remains, at 11.30pm on a Sunday night I often have few alternatives. One night Mr. Tully took as his theme the subject of thrift. Not, as he observed, a subject that he would not have happened upon except for two words that have entered the English language: credit crunch. One year on the Credit Crunch continues to crunch. Where ever the green shoots maybe, the reality for people unemployed is plain – there are precious few green shoots anywhere. Even those in work are finding reduced working hours and moreover reductions in hourly rates. We naturally begin to make whatever we've got as far as it possibly can. We change our supermarket not our lifestyle – as the advert says. Thrift stops being a bad word and starts being the watch word. As Mark Tully said in the programme, talking of going on two family holidays abroad every year is no longer

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Minister's Letter (cont'd)

acceptable, it's just deemed to be crass – I did warn you about the middle class thing didn't I.

But how did we get into that situation. The credit crunch has made many people sit down and reassess. We can tell ourselves lies and we can make ourselves believe them. Why shouldn't my children have all the things that the other children in the classroom get at Christmas?

The fact remains Jesus challenged the values of His day and ours. We are not to worry about money, but to think first about others. The credit crunch is call to discipleship. A God-call to examine or re-examine the spiritual hold money has on our lives. It's a lot more than a call to thrift. Would you be up for that?

'Simplify' is a campaign launched this very October by the Evangelical Alliance to utilise the credit crunch for some positive good. It's asking us to take a month to consciously spend less and give more. It's a call to live small and think big. Would you join such a campaign? Would you value a process that could simplify your life? The E.A. website has resources to help people with budgeting as well as living and giving. It also has tips to bring a greater simplicity into ever day living with regard to time, the environment and time. Get these resources and more at <http://www.eauk.org/simplify/>. Think about it – it might make Harvest this

year one that you really don't forget. Rather than finish with a quote from scripture, my thoughts were taken to a source slightly less old than the Bible. More than four hundred years ago, Martin Rinkart articulated a viewpoint which was very different indeed to the one that brought us to the credit crunch. One that we need to reflect on all the more in these times:

Now thank we all our God
with hearts and hands and voices;
such wonders he has done!
in him the world rejoices.
He, from our mother's arms,
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

I don't know if we will be singing this hymn this year – but I know we certainly need to be letting it shape our behaviour to have a properly simple life in Christ.

Yours in Him
Ian Cathcart

Notes from Kirk Session

Just a short note to keep folk up to date with what is happening at Kirk Session.

Mary Hadwen has suggested that the toys we donate at Christmas be distributed to those in need at a local level and this has been approved by Kirk Session. The toys will be distributed in Penicuik and other areas in Midlothian.

Much of our last meeting was spent discussing our Weekend Retreat at the beginning of October and thinking and praying about the strongholds which we will bring to Steve Goss to discuss. We are praying that the weekend will have an amazing impact on the way we look at ourselves and any corporate strongholds in the Church.

Approaches have been made to Church members concerning their appointment as elders and I will keep you up to date on the outcome. Please pray that people will be led according to God's will for their lives.

Thank you for your continued prayer support for the Kirk Session and please pray that the weekend retreat will be fruitful and inspirational

Yours in Christ
Joyce MacLean, Session Clerk

The Kirk Session Weekend Away

The Kirk Session is going away for the weekend on 2-4th of October. I vividly remember one particular evening when I was doing the Freedom in Christ course in one of the house groups. It was a session on spiritual strongholds and how they controlled and stunted people's outlook. Jenny Jacobs made an insightful observation that I've never forgotten. "It's not just people that can have strongholds – whole companies can have them!" I think Jenny is right: companies; staffrooms; hospitals; and churches! Strongholds are unhealthy ways of behaving as a group that become the norm because it's 'just the way things are done here.' The Kirk Session is going to be reflecting on that very thought. What corporate strongholds do we have as a leadership and as a church that shouldn't be the way things are done round here? How have we as a church been shaped (– or should that be misshaped) by the strongholds we might have? What attitudes do we as a leadership (and as a church) that we would have to admit come from corporate spiritual strongholds? We need to plan for the future knowing where we are now and why we got here – pray that we do.

Ian Cathcart

Thank You

Ross & Mary Hadwen would like to thank everyone for their kind words, thoughts and prayers. The numerous bouquets of flowers and cards were very much appreciated.

The Leprosy Mission

On Saturday 17 October 2009 why not come along to the North Kirk Penicuik between 12 noon and 2.00 pm and enjoy a bowl of home made soup and a filled roll.

The local committee are holding the Leprosy Mission Lunch as their final fundraiser event of the year. Our fundraising this year is directed to support the Leprosy Mission of Zimbabwe.

There will also be home baking and Leprosy Mission Christmas cards for sale on the day.

Tickets priced £2.00 are available from Wilma Wilson (678045) or Liz Murray (673231) or pay at the door on the day.

We are so grateful for the continued support of the church fellowship and look forward to seeing old friends and seeing new faces on the day.

Liz Murray

Church Garden

Do you sometimes think the church grounds are untidy and there are lots of weeds about? There are a small number of 'gardeners' who come and do the weeding and trimming when they have time. The garden and grounds belong to us all, as church members, so can we all help whenever we are there. If everyone who is able, pulled up a weed on the path or gravel, as they went past, then we would have more time to spend keeping the garden tidy. Any other gardeners or those who have some spare time are very welcome to pop down and do what needs to be done.

Thank you, Mary Darling

Mr. Darwin's Tree

Cranstoun Church, Pathhead have been able to secure a World Premiere of a new one-man one-act play about Charles Darwin. The play is written from a Christian perspective. It will be premiered on Saturday 3rd October 2009 at Crichton Collegiate Church - time 6.00 pm - and the play lasts about 1hr 15min. Tickets are £7 at the door (£5 Concessions).

Table Sale for Rwanda

I wanted to thank everyone who participated as stall holders for our Car Boot/Table sale in aid of funds for those traveling to Rwanda. We raised £205.00 which wasn't bad on a day that everyone seemed to be at the Penicuik Fayre!

Thanks also to those from the Church who donated items and attended on the day to search out bargains!

The event has made us realise that we need to tell Penicuik where West St. Hall is!

Thanks again
Joyce MacLean

A Stranger for Christmas

Visits from strangers at Christmas began with the arrival of wise men from a foreign land. You could carry on this tradition, by inviting an international student to spend Christmas in your home. HOST is a well-established charity, backed by the Foreign Office and many universities, which links adults studying in the UK with hospitable volunteers throughout Britain. Guests come from all over the world, including many from China. They speak English, are keen to share their own culture, while longing to know more about our way of life. They are prepared to travel to stay with a host far from their university. Welcoming a student who might otherwise spend Christmas on a deserted campus, fosters international understanding, and will make Christmas special. See www.hostuk.org or call HOST's volunteer regional organiser in this part of Scotland, Anne-Marie Ringler, on 01698 386100. HOST arranges visits throughout the year, so if your 'inn' is full this Christmas, you can still offer an invitation at another time.

pull it out! **What's On?** pin it up!

Sunday 4th October	Morning Service & Communion led by Bill Chalmers - Matthew 14:13-21	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 4th October	Evening Service - 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5 led by Ian Cathcart	South Church	7.00pm
Wednesday 7th October	Women's Group - Getting to Know Jackie Cathcart	West St. Hall	7.30pm
Sunday 11th October	Morning Service - Harvest All Age Service followed by lunch in the hall	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 11th October	Traditional Service	South Church	3.00pm
Sunday 11th October	Evening Service - Speaker night: Dr.Alistair Brown*	South Church	7.00pm
Monday 12th October	Pastoral Training Session	32 West St.	7.30pm
Saturday 17th October	Leprosy Mission Lunch (£2)	North Kirk	12.00pm
Sunday 18th October	Morning service - God's love for my neighbours - Luke 15:1-7 - No S-Club	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 18th October	Simplify Christmas Prayer Service	South Church	3.00pm
Sunday 18th October	No Evening Service		
Sunday 18th October	Origin City Praise	Usher Hall, Edinburgh	8.30pm
Wednesday 21st October	Women's Group - Old Penicuik Slides - Bill Bruce	West St. Hall	2.30pm
Sunday 25th October	Morning Service led by Johnnie Humphrey - Luke 10: 1-12; 25-28	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 25th October	Evening Service- 2 Thessalonians 3:6-18 led by Rosie Townsley	South Church	7.00pm

Harvest festival

Sunday 11th October.
Could the congregation please bring flowers in the morning, which will be delivered to the older members of the church.

Origin City Praise

Sunday 18th October – 8.30pm
Origin City Praise, Usher Hall
Edinburgh.
Free tickets available from Wesley Owen Bookshop on George Street and The Faith Mission Bookshop, Gilmerton Road, Edinburgh or buy online at www.citypraise.net

* A Scottish Advocate working in Edinburgh and a Chairperson of the UK charity International Justice Mission

Deadline for articles for next issue of Scope: Monday 19th October 2009

South Kirk Quiz Night

On 9th September we held the annual South Kirk Quiz Night. This was slightly earlier in the year than normal, but was brought forward to raise funds for the Music / Praise Group, to go towards funding our attendance at a praise conference in Eastbourne in November.

Twelve teams with very imaginative titles – from ‘The Dolly Mixtures’ to ‘The Ladies Toilets’ – battled it out, tackling a range of questions prepared by Mary Ritchie - and there were some entertaining responses. Did you know that it is ALWAYS Greece that leads the procession at the Olympic Games opening ceremony? And Hippology is the study of horses, not – as one team suggested – the study of hippo’s. It was great to have guest teams from other Penicuik churches supporting us, and the evening was enjoyed by all.

Final placings were very close but the winning honours went to ‘So Near and So Far’ with ‘The Hopefuls’ coming a close second. First and second teams were presented with prize hampers, which both teams kindly returned requesting that the items be donated to where they could be better used.

On behalf of the praise group I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this highly enjoyable evening – those who took part, those who helped to arrange, organise and run the event, and those who generously gave their time and efforts to contribute the fantastic home baking that was provided with the tea and coffee, and also sold during the evening. The event raised a total of £300 towards Eastbourne funds.

Caroline McIntosh

Volunteer Centre Midlothian

Your local Volunteer Centre provides information, advice, training and support on all aspects of volunteering in Midlothian. Their aim is to link the skills, experience and enthusiasm of local people who wish to volunteer with their registered organisations.

Interested?

Volunteer Centre Midlothian
Tel: 01875 820900
info@volunteermidlothian.org.uk
www.volunteermidlothian.org.uk

A Service with a difference 3.00pm 18th October 2009

‘Simplify Christmas’ is a prayer service happening in the church this month on the 18th of October – BEFORE the Christmas commercial onslaught gets fully under way! It’s meant to be a prayer service emphasising quietness, and reflective readings to help us spiritually prepare to make Christmas what it should be. Most of us get to Boxing Day and moan, like countless Christians across the western world that Christmas isn’t real anymore. It’s not really a genuinely Christian festival. The fact remains however that making Christmas truly Christian for ourselves is our responsibility – let’s begin like we intend to have a Christian Christmas. Chill out a little so we don’t need to pay out a lot. If we don’t consciously book God in to our Christmas preparations in November and December can we be surprised when we end up feeling as if He’s been left out?

Ian Cathcart

LIVE SMALL
Simplify
THINK BIG

Love Russia - 2009 Visit

This is just a wee report about our summer camp experience this year. George and I had a great time. We were pleased to be back at Kostina and see the kids we met last year. Some had grown a lot and some were much the same, but all wonderful. As well as interacting with the kids, we were glad to be able to be involved in more practical tasks like painting the play equipment and seeing George with his group of young lads re-establish the goal posts, and the boys having the initiative to erect their own benches to sit on at the edge of the pitch and in the trees where they hang out. It was great and they loved the freedom to use their own initiative and show their many skills, like the wonderful art work by the team who transformed the games hall with the murals painted on the walls, again with the help of the children.

The best thing was the answer to prayer in that we had managed raise enough money to provide trainers for all the kids. It was very emotional when the trainers finally arrived on the Friday just before the final concert. George and I personally distributed them as I fought back the tears. After I finished handing them out and when the younger children

came up to sing I was right at the front and could see their feet. They were in a desperate condition, dirty and shoes falling off. I was so glad I had listened to God's call to try and do this for the children. Not only was there enough money for the trainers for the kids who were in the orphanage, but also there was enough money to provide trainers for thirty more kids who will be coming to the orphanage in September.

Also the orphanage was in need of new water pipes and the remainder of the money was given to help provide the new pipes. Hopefully the kids will now have hot showers every day as during our stay there was often very cold showers in the mornings.

The money was raised by George doing a sponsored swim, he is now two stone lighter and fitter, and generous donations from our home church at Penicuik South. In total we raised £1,520.

George and I had lots of fun doing the story telling, as we had to dress up and act out the stories. We were various characters from the bible with our names changed to satisfy the Russian authorities.

Even although things in the orphanage are getting more relaxed there are still very strict rules about not saying the words God or Jesus, but we get round that by giving the bible characters new names, like one day we had Jesus as a pop star feeding the crowd at a pop concert. The kids get the meaning of the story but not the name of the character. It is a bit sad but I am sure Jesus would rather we teach the word as he himself used parables to teach the people.

This year I took charge of a small team doing craft work with the middle age children. This was at times challenging but we got through. I am not the most artistic person in the world by any means. One of the new activities this year was to have a sports day. The kids loved this and were all very enthusiastic to take part. It was great fun with egg and spoon and sack race, and all the normal things you would expect. We had a big parachute and all the kids were sitting on it for their picnic. The rain came on and it made a great shelter to run into the school with and such fun too. As normal we had taken lots of games and craft things with us. We thought that the kids would like some kites and one day it was quite windy so I thought

good I will take some of the children out with the kites. Well they thought it was great but they thought I was mad as I was just standing with the kite trying to get it to fly, so they talked me into running up and down like a mad possessed woman with a kite on the end of a string. The governess came out of the building bid me good day with a rather strange look I am sure she thought I had flipped.

There was one very funny thing. One of the very young members of the team has rail track braces on her teeth and through one of the interpreters she was asked by one of the younger kids what is that on your teeth, is that the way to make you speak English not Russian.

It was good to see that things were a bit more relaxed in the orphanage. The kids were allowed to mingle with us during the afternoons and in the evening when it was not a structured group time, and at the end of the week we were allowed to leave all the art and craft work up in the hall, where in the past we had to take it all down. One of the activities we did was to frame photographs of the children, which had been taken through the week, and the kids were able to keep them.

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Love Russia (cont'd)

During the time we were there, there was an official visit from the authorities. They were giving the children medicals as preparation for the start of the school year we were told that the governor had been quizzed at great length about what was happening with the summer school.

This September for the new school year, thirty new boys are to be joining the orphanage. The carers are very concerned about this as the boys are reported to all have challenging behaviour and there is no extra staff to help care for the new children and they are already stretched.

A few of the older boys and girls were about to leave and go to college. The girls are to be doing dressmaking and the boys painting and decorating. We were able to give a starter pack to the young people of needles threads and pens pencils and paintbrushes. This is a part of the work Love Russia is doing in the Genesis program. Sadly because of the cut backs in funds, due to the credit crunch, they can only offer 70 places this year instead of the 90 they were able to offer last year. This means some of the young people will miss out on that chance to get a help up in life.

It is hoped that we will be able to encourage some more people to get involved and perhaps go out with us next year. The team especially need men to go as next year we anticipate the ratio of boys to girls to be greater

Yours in Christ

Helen and George Hogg

Heaven's Grocery Store

I was walking down life's highway a long time ago.
One day, I saw a sign that read 'Heaven's Grocery Store',
As I got a little closer, the door came open wide,
And when I came to myself, I was standing inside.
I saw a host of Angels. They were standing everywhere.
One handed me a basket and said; 'My child, shop with care'.
Everything a Christian needed was in the Grocery Store,
And all you couldn't carry, you could come back the next day for more.
First I got some **Patience**; **Love** was in the same row.
Further down was **Understanding**; you need that everywhere you go.
I got a box or two of **Wisdom**, a bag or two of **Faith**.
I couldn't miss the **Holy Ghost** for he was all over the place.
I stopped to get some **Strength** and **Courage** to help me run this race.
By then my basket was getting full, but I remembered some **Grace**.
I didn't forget **Salvation** for **Salvation** is free,
So I tried to get enough of that to save both you and me.
Then I started up to the counter to pay my grocery bill,
For I thought I had everything to do my Master's will.
As I went up the aisle I saw **Prayer** and I just had to put that in,
For I knew when I stepped outside, I would run right into sin.
Peace and **Joy** were plentiful, they were on the last shelf.
Song and **Praises** were hanging near so I just helped myself.
Then I said to the Angel, "Now how much do I owe?"
He just smiled and said, "Take them everywhere you go".
Again, I said, "How much do I really owe?"
He smiled again and said,
"My child, Jesus paid your bill a long, long time ago!"

Author Unknown

Contributed by Mairi Tulloch

**God is engaged in our community,
so we should be too!**

Ian Coffey

SCOPE

Penicuik South Parish Church
Scottish Charity SCO11871